[Mr. P. S. Mohamed.]

(*b*) a caste-war statement showing the number of merchants whose names were included in the register for giving permits for getting down the following goods :—

(i) onions ;

(ii) chillies ;

(iii) potatoes ; and

(iv) other sundry articles ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : The time and labour involved in collecting the information are incommensurate with its possible utility.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI : Sir, on a point of order, when once the question has been admitted by the President, is it open to the departmental Head to say that the information cannot be furnished on account of the difficulty in the collection of statistics ?

PRESIDENT : The admission of questions is strictly dependant upon statutory requirements and all questions cannot be disallowed on the ground of acting against public interest. Government have to admit the questions under certain provisions of the law. Whether the Government consider it or the department considers it as to whether the question is to be answered, is a matter for the Government to decide. As a matter of fact, Government can say that the time and labour involved in collecting the information are not commensurate with its possible utility. Such practices are found everywhere.

MR. P. S. MOHAMED : ഈ വ്യാപാരികൾക്ക് പെർമിറ്റ് കൊടുക്കുന്നത് ഏത്ര നയത്തെ അടിസ്ഥാനപ്പെടുത്തിയാണ് ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : ഉള്ളിക്കച്ചവടക്കാരെപ്പറ്റിയാണെങ്കിൽ തഹശിൽദാരുടെ റിപ്പോർട്ടിനെ അടിസ്ഥാനപ്പെടുത്തിയാണ് കൂടുതൽ കൊല്ലങ്ങളും കച്ചവടംചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള വ്യാപാരികൾക്കാണ് പെർമിറ്റ് കൊടുക്കുന്നത്. അങ്ങനെ സംസ്ഥാനത്തിന്റെ നാനാഭാഗങ്ങളിലും വ്യാപാരികളെ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ട്.

Grow More Food Campaign.

72 *MR. K. A. MAHOMED : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) what are the activities of Government to grow more food in the State ; and

(*b*) whether there is any machinery working under Government to advise the public as to the methods to be adopted to grow more food ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : (*a*) 1. Opening of departmental manure depots and stocking manures for sale to ryots at cost price and on credit on crop loan basis, with a view to increasing crop yield.

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2. Manufacture of compost manure with town refuse and night-soil and with leaf-mould obtained from the Reserve Forest areas for augmenting the local manurial resources.

3. Conversion of single crop paddy lands into double crop lands under the Lift Irrigation Scheme.

4. Leasing out of lands from the Forest Reserve for the cultivation of paddy and tapioca.

5. Cultivation of vegetables on waterfree areas of certain irrigation tanks in South Travancore.

6. Conduct of demonstrations on ryots' lands to illustrate the possibilities of securing higher yields by using better manures, better seeds and better implements.

7. Carrying on of propaganda by the Officers of the Agricultural Department for putting every bit of available land under some food crop or other.

(*b*) Yes.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: May I know whether the Department has taken any steps to combat pests in the Punja lands?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Yes, Sir.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: May I know the method adopted for that?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Whenever such a thing happens the departmental officers are sent over to the spot. On investigation they will recommend remedial measures to get rid of the pests.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: Then, may I know why in Karthigapally taluk the department has not taken any step to combat the pests?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: I will look into the matter.

MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: May I know the reason why the agricultural officers do not care to visit the demonstration farms in my locality?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: If it is a case demanding attention I will see that immediate directions are issued to the officers to visit the locality.

MR. K. VARGHESE ITHAC: ക്രാപ്പ് ലോൺ കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് വല്ല നടപടിയും നടന്നിയിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: ഉണ്ട്.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: May I know how long is it since those activities were started by Government?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: About a year.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: What has been the result achieved so far?

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MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: The Department has sold manures to the extent of about Rs. 4,49,054 till now.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: What about the yield of food-grains?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: The manure should have produced better yields.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: May I know whether any statistics have been taken as the British Government have been doing in regard to that matter?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR; In certain areas on account of the supply of manure substantial results have been achieved. But no systematic survey has been conducted.

MR. P S. NATARAJA PILLAI: May I know the number of acres that have been converted into double crop lands?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR; About 1000 acres in North Travancore on the sides of the Periyar river have been brought under double crops cultivation.

MR. CHAZHIKATTU JOSEPH: തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറു വക യായി എത്ര മനുവർഡിഷ്യാ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു പറയാമോ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: എല്ലാംകൂടി ഓൺ ഡിപ്പോകളിൽ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ട്.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know at what price the manure is sold by Government in the Government Depots?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: That depends upon the kind of manure that is sold. The Department has stocked ammonium sulphate, groundnut cake, ammonium phosphate and such other manures.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know the price of the groundnut cake?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: About 8 Rupees per cwt.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know what is the rate at which private merchants are selling it?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Government have information to the effect that the private merchants are underselling that manure.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know what is the purpose in their underselling?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: That is because the Government have got a stock of manure and the moment their stock gets exhausted, they can increase the price.

MR. K. A. MATHEW; Do the merchants stand to gain on account of underselling the manure.

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MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: They will profit in some other direction and so they want to get rid of their stock as soon as possible.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: May I know whether the Government have considered the issue of manure on crop loan basis?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: A considerable quantity of manure has been issued on crop loan basis.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: May I know how many tons have been sold?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: The value of manure sold on crop loan basis come to about Rs. 66,580.

MR. P. M. VARGHESE: May I know whether compost manure is made available for sale in any of the Depots in Travancore?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: As explained by the President yesterday compost manure is stocked in the various Municipalities such as Trivandrum, Alleppey, Nagercoil and a few others and from the stocks kept there, they are being sold to cultivators.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know whether in addition to the 29 departmental manure depots the department has appointed private agencies to sell compost manure?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Yes, Sir.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know how many such agencies there are?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: There are 8 agencies engaged in manure, sales.

MR. M. K. NILAKANTAN: May I know whether Government manures are made available in every depot in Travancore?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Yes.

MR. M. K. NILAKANTAN: Are the Government aware that certain employees in the depot are selling manure at higher rates than the one fixed by Government?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: No, Sir.

MR. P. M. VARGHESE: Is it not possible for Government to make available compost manure in every depot in Travancore?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: It is made available in all Municipalities from where there is no difficulty in transporting it to any place.

MR. P. M. VARGHESE: For example in Thodupuzha no compost manure is made available. Wherever we want them it must be made available and may I ask Government what they have done in that direction?

MR. K. R. NARYANA AIYAR: Every Municipality has been asked to produce compost manure and from there anybody can purchase it.

MR. P. M. VARGHESE: May I know what is the price of manure per pound?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: I must ask for notice.

MR. CHAZHIKATTU JOSEPH: മീനച്ചൽ താലൂക്കിൽ എത്രയെണ്ണം ഉണ്ടെന്നു പറയാമോ?

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MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : ഒന്നുമില്ല.

MR. CHAZHIKATTU JOSEPH : കഴിയുന്നതും വേഗത്തിൽ ഒരു ഡിപ്പോയെങ്കിലും സ്ഥാപിക്കുന്നതിനു മാർഗ്ഗമുണ്ടാകുമോ ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : അതിനെപ്പറ്റി ആലോചിക്കാം.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI : May I know is it the urban area or the rural area which requires manure ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : It is the rural area, no doubt.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI : Then, why not make that available in those places ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : In a place like Travancore there is no difference between rural and urban area because the distance between places is not so wide. For instance there is a compost manure depot at Nagercoil which occupies a central position for the localities surrounding it. Within one or two miles range, there are vast expanse of fields.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI : It is more than 30 miles.

MR. P. O. THOMAS : May I know how many demonstration centres are conducted by Government ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : About 46 demonstration centres in paddy and 22 in coccanut.

MR. P. O. THOMAS : May I know how many centres are there in the Parur Taluk ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : I am sorry, I must look up the files to supply that information.

Supply of food materials.

73 *MR. E. K. MADHAVAN (*Kunnatnad* cum *Parur*) : Will the Government be pleased to state whether any charges are levied for weighing and measuring of food materials supplied to retail dealers from the Government depots of the State ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : No.

MR. E. K. MADHAVAN : May I know whether Government have employed coolies in the godowns for the sake of weighing and measuring of food materials ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : The question is whether any charges are levied for weighing and measuring of food materials supplied to retail dealers from the Government Depots of the State, and the answer is 'No'.

MR. E. K. MADHAVAN : May I know who does the weighing and measuring work ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : The depot officer.

MR. E. K. MADHAVAN : But in some places retail merchants are charged for this item of work.

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